

## **August 2017 Tiffin Travelers Member Newsletter**

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### **Greetings**

Since the March 2017 newsletter, occupants of the chapter's "not-so-oval" office have been busy on land and sea. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, Treasurer Tom and I set sail on a 32-night trans-Atlantic and western Mediterranean cruise. We had a fantastic time on smooth seas and visited numerous ports before our final stop in Rome, Italy. After 5 more nights in Rome, touring and traipsing to the must-do tourist sites, we flew home to prepare for our land touring schedule.

June 1<sup>st</sup> we left home in the land yacht to attend an Allegro club rally in West Virginia, a Tiffin Travelers rally in Kentucky, the FMCA Convention rally in Indiana, and an FMCA Military Veterans chapter rally also in Indiana. After those, we headed south to Gulf Shores, Alabama to visit friends before coming home. And, yes, it is "cooler" in the ancient city of St. Augustine than it was in Kentucky a few weeks ago. Crazy!

Now we prepare for our end-of-year schedule, which includes getting our members up to date as best we can. This newsletter will summarize events of the summer and will also hopefully stimulate you to take action in the fall. There are 3 (three) important fall topics covered below which require your attention and action on your part: time to register for the October chapter rally at Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort; volunteers are needed at the October FMCA Eastern Area Rally (GEAR) in Lewisburg, West Virginia; and, all FMCA members are being asked to cast a vote with FMCA the purpose of which is essentially whether or not to allow towables to join FMCA (balloting process will be explained later in the newsletter).

Enjoy the newsletter and please take the appropriate action on the aforementioned topics which are covered more in depth below.

### **Thanks**

Thank you to Joann and Geary Herndon for hosting their first rally this June in Kentucky.

Thank you to Don and Debra Beck for hosting the rally scheduled for this October in South Carolina. It will be their second time hosting a Tiffin Travelers rally.

Thank you to Bill Murton for providing photos of our June chapter rally in Kentucky. After much frustration I was finally able to figure out how to get them posted to our web site Club Pictures. (My ineptitude, not his.)

Thank you to Marge Mazzone, our National Director, for attending the Governing Board pre-meetings and Annual Meeting during the National Convention in Indiana. Her report is included below.

Thank you to Marge Mazzone and Carol Mandik for volunteering to host a social at the GEAR West Virginia event scheduled for October. There is more information below on that topic.

And, thank you to the three couples who have already volunteered to host chapter rallies in 2018. Linda and Dave Spindle are working on an April rally in Florida. Mary and Ross Halbleib are working on a September rally in Michigan. Ann and Nick Paul are working on an October rally in Virginia. When sufficient information is confirmed, these events will be posted to our web site. Don't be shy if you would like to host a rally. There is room for another rally in June or July of 2018; and, we can start putting 2019 rallies on the place holder.

Thank you to chapter VP Tom Gulya for performing the annual audit of the chapter financial records.

Thank you to our long serving photo directory coordinators Dean and Sue Loomis. Even with their valiant efforts, the logistics of keeping up with the membership directory and distributing it to new members has been an insurmountable challenge. To overcome the delivery mechanism challenges would require postage expenses above and beyond a desirable threshold. We are retiring the concept for the time being.

### **Membership**

As of this writing, our chapter now has 180 member coaches. The August 2017 version of the member roster will be emailed to all members.

Since the March 2017 Newsletter, 7 new member coaches have been added to the roster. We look forward to seeing these friends soon at one of our activities: Jimmy and Robin Campbell; John Crocitto and Beth Barnes; Steven and Gail Epstein; Jerry and Connie Gbur; John and Donna Hite; Russ and Linda Lowmiller; and, Tom and Connie Ziobrowski. Four member coaches were deleted since March: 2 sold their coach and 2 dropped their FMCA membership and have not responded to our inquiries.

### **October Tiffin Travelers Rally in Hilton Head, SC**

Registrations are now being accepted for the Tiffin Travelers rally to be held during October 2017 at Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort in South Carolina. The resort is located at 133 Arrow Road on Hilton Head Island. There will be four nights of rally activities beginning the afternoon of October 11th.

**Deadline to reserve a site is October 1<sup>st</sup>.** Reservation information and the rally agenda can be found at the link on our Rallies and Gatherings web page of our web site [tiffintravelers.info](http://tiffintravelers.info).

Here is a brief rundown: Call to speak to Alex at (843) 785-7699 to reserve your site. Alex handles site reservations for rallies. Be sure to mention "Tiffin Travelers Rally" to get our chapter member reduced site rate. Arrive early and/or stay late at the preferred rate.

Rally hosts are Don and Debra Beck, [mgmtexpert@aol.com](mailto:mgmtexpert@aol.com) **Remember to email them of your arrival and departure dates** to ensure they include you in activity headcounts.

Chapter members will receive \$5 per person credit (max of \$10 per coach) toward the estimated rally fee of \$48 per person. The per person rally fee covers group meals and activities identified as "included" in the agenda posted to the web page.

The resort is considered the finest coastal resort in the country and has been rated in the top 15 resorts in the country from different sources. Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort is rated 10/10/10 in all Campground books.

### **October Gathering at FMCA GEAR in Lewisburg, WV**

The FMCA Eastern Area Rally (aka GEAR) is scheduled for five nights of camping beginning October 3, 2017 at the State Fairgrounds of West Virginia in Lewisburg, WV. Registration info and a registration form for this event can be found at this link of the Eastern Area's web site: [easternarea.net/GEAR2017.html](http://easternarea.net/GEAR2017.html) and also at [fmca.com](http://fmca.com). Tiffin Travelers National Director, Marge Mazzone, will be at the event to coordinate social opportunities for any other Travelers members attending. After you have registered, send an email to Marge at [marge.mazzone@verizon.net](mailto:marge.mazzone@verizon.net) to let her know your arrival date and what area you will be parked in. Marge will include you in any social activities she coordinates. And there will be a social! (Information about the social is shown below.)

Marge is also again **coordinating seminar monitor volunteers** for this event. **Let her know NOW if you are interested in being a member of her volunteer team.** She needs your help. Monitoring a seminar is an easy and informative volunteer opportunity. Duties include ensuring attendees have signed in; keeping track of the time so the presenter doesn't run over; assisting with distributing any handouts provided by the presenter; and, providing other minor miscellaneous assistance to the presenter as needed. Your assistance is greatly appreciated and you have the opportunity to volunteer while attending a seminar.

National Director Marge Mazzone and Secretary Carol Mandik will be the chapter officers on site at GEAR. They have graciously accepted the roles of serving as hostesses during an "All Tiffin Owners" social on Friday, October 6th, 4:30 - 5:30 in the Blue Ribbon Building. Bring your own Beverage. Light snacks will be provided compliments of Tiffin Travelers and the Allegro Club and Tiffin Motorhomes. Marge and Carol would greatly appreciate the assistance of our chapter members to set up for this social.

This event is posted on the Rallies and Gatherings page of our web site [tiffintravelers.info](http://tiffintravelers.info).

### **Chapter VP Tom Gulya Shares His Thoughts**

Earlier this year, our chapter VP Tom Gulya had a serious health scare after leaving our rally in Florida while on a trip in his motorhome with wife and pets. I invited him to share about his experience in this newsletter. Tom shares some of his thoughts with you in the following:

*First of all, "Thank You" for all the Get Well Cards and well wishes as we recover from our Cardiac Catastrophe. We were fortunate that we were staying only 4 miles from a well-respected Heart Hospital in Mesa Arizona. This resulted in top notch cardiac surgery and post-surgical care.*

*In case you're wondering, "Is that annual dues I've been paying worth it?" We can vouch for it. Was it smooth and easy getting everything done? No, but we were able to get it done with some effort on our part, and at the end of the day it all worked out. Once we were cleared for travel, FMCA Assist paid for us and our two Shelties to fly from Phoenix back to Myrtle Beach. Approximately two weeks later a professional Driver arrived with our Allegro Open Road towing our Jeep.*

*We took our first trip since all of this adventure by heading to INDY 17 In July, where we able to enjoy the company of some of our favorite Tiffin Travelers at a happy hour at the "Rolling White House". In spite of some rain during the week, we were able to have a good time and renew many friendships, as well as to volunteer. That's the heart of being a FMCA member.*

*Be sure to send in your ballot regarding admission of towables to FMCA. Vote as you feel on the issue, but vote. Either way, don't complain about the outcome if you don't vote. (This topic is explained below.)*

*If you haven't signed up for the Hilton Head Rally in October, do it now. Tiffin Travelers have the best rallies. We look forward to seeing you there. Tom*

**FMCA Governing Board Report from our National Director, Marge Mazzone**

*Governing Board Meeting Indianapolis, Indiana*

*July 12, 2017*

*The Governing Board meeting was called to order at 9:00A.M., by President, Charlie Adcock.*

*Of 380 member chapters, 277 chapters were represented for a total of 73%, which established a quorum.*

*Proposal #3, to change the wording of the FMCA bylaws from 'motor coach' to 'recreational vehicle' was 226 'for' and 54 'against'.*

*The Governing Board voted to bestow the Kenneth T. Scott Pipe Dreamer's Award to Genny Jennings, L26.*

*Election of Officers: President: Having no opposition, Jon Walker was declared President of FMCA for 2017-2019.*

*Vice-President: Rhett Porter was declared the winner 185 votes to Jack Maybree at 87 votes.*

*Secretary: Having no opposition, Gaye Young was declared Secretary.*

*Treasurer: John Reynolds was declared the winner with 139 votes to Frank Tabor at 135 votes.*

*The budget for 2018 was approved.*

*Announcements: The 2018 Winter Convention will be held in Perry, Georgia.*

*The 2018 Summer Convention will be held in Gillette, Wyoming.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marge Mazzone*

*National Director, Tiffin Travelers*

**Status of "Allowing 'Towables' Into FMCA Membership" & Member Vote**

Okay ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls and kids of all ages, this is where you have an opportunity and a responsibility to weigh in and be heard!!!! I will refrain from expressing any opinion on the issue at hand and will state only the facts.....

At the July 2017 FMCA National Convention, the FMCA Governing Board voted in favor of allowing you and all other members of FMCA an opportunity to vote on this major change to the Family Motor Coach Association. Each "F" number (or "L" number, or "S" number, etc., depending upon a member's status) will have ONE vote on this issue. (Example: Two people in a coach, sharing one FMCA member number, equals only one ballot.)

The opportunity to vote will be published to the full membership in several ways, the most comprehensive of which is supposed to be a ballot published in the September 2017, October 2017 and the November 2017 issues of FMCA's "Family Motor Coaching" magazine.

The outcome of the vote will be determined by a simple majority of the paper ballots received. We were told there would be no opportunity for phone or internet voting.

The issue to be voted upon is a proposal to change the wording in the FMCA Articles of Incorporation, The FMCA Constitution, and the FMCA (national) Bylaws, so that every occurrence of the words "motor coach", "motorhome", "coach", "motor coach", etc., is changed to "recreational vehicle".

The Governing Board voted on a general description of a "recreational vehicle". I do not know whether it will be published in the magazine presentations of the ballot, but it was a loose fitting, generic description similar to "...any wheeled unit that contains eating, sleeping and sanitary facilities...". (The aforementioned is my vague recollection of the gist of the description.) This description is intended to include all sizes/lengths of fifth wheels, travel trailers and pop-ups which meet the general definition, not units such as planes or boats or motorcycles.

If a simple majority of ballots received is in favor of this verbiage change, “towables” could be allowed into FMCA membership, with full membership rights, as early as December 2017.

If the vote passes in favor, it means “towables” would be allowed into FMCA membership. It does not mean that towables must be allowed into all FMCA chapters. Chapters would retain their right to limit their membership by specifying unique, but not discriminatory, attributes such as is done by our chapter and many others. Our chapter bylaws limit full membership to Tiffin coach owners only.

How towables would be dealt with in the Area and National FMCA rallies remains a question. Towables present several unique logistics issues to be addressed, such as most towables do not have internal generators. There has been no presentation as to how many towables might join FMCA, how fast they might join, or how many might be expected at FMCA rallies. There are other questions to be asked and answered, but they will not be touched on in this newsletter.

So, read your FMCA magazines in the next two months. Look for the ballot. **CAST YOUR VOTE!** At the Hilton Head rally in October, we will have ballots available for those who have not already voted. Last year at this time, a different ballot was published in the magazine. Of over 70,000 FMCA members, only 700 ballots (+/- a few) were submitted. Less than 1% of the membership participated in the vote.

Now to lighter topics.....

#### **Post-Event Comments about the June Rally in Georgetown, KY**

Again, thanks are extended to the hosts of this rally, JoAnn and Geary Herndon. Fifteen (15) of our member coaches attended the rally at Whispering Hills RV Resort in Georgetown, KY. Although the climate was warm and it rained the evening of our dinner out, Mother Nature was kind to our activities.

As group activities, the rally attendees enjoyed: afternoon socials at the resort; a visit to the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington; dinner out at new steakhouse; a tour of Buffalo Trace Distillery; a fascinating (and must do) tour of the Toyota manufacturing plant in Georgetown (They miraculously produce 2,000 new Toyotas each 16-hour workday of production!); and, a pulled-pork dinner at the campground with an array of sides provided by attendees.

In addition to the group activities, members ventured out on their own or in smaller groups to visit some of the other many worthy sites in the area. Some members visited the Ark -- a life size replication of Noah’s Ark, complete with some live animals and an extensive museum-style narrative display throughout. Some members visited historical sites of the area, such as Daniel Boone’s on Lincoln’s. Others visited the state capitol. Others visited major Bourbon Trail distilleries in the area including Wild Turkey, Town Branch and Woodford Reserve. As advertised, there is an abundance of things to see and experience in this area of Kentucky.

In keeping with the chapter’s standing rule to donate \$100 to a local charity during a rally, the Herndon hosts selected Amen House, Inc., in Georgetown, as recipient of the donation.

#### **Post-Event Comments about the July Gathering in Indianapolis**

FMCA held its 96<sup>th</sup> International Convention and RV Expo during July in Indianapolis, IN. The venue was expansive and provided ample parking of attendees and numerous indoor (air conditioned) facilities. Although there may have been more hiding, I was able to verify that twenty-three (23) of our member coaches attended the event.

As usual, our members were quite spread out through the various hook-ups offered. Some were fortunate to be in full-hookup on firm ground. Others were parked in generator-only on firm ground or pavement. Others were parked in either 50amp or 30amp electric (no water or sewer) on firm ground or pavement. And, then there were

a few who regretfully were parked (with any combination of the aforementioned hook-ups) on very squishy, grassy areas which held the abundant rainfall for longer than desired. Mother Nature didn't discriminate. Those who paid more for their hook-ups did not necessarily experience a "better" parking venue.

The Indianapolis and surrounding areas had an abundance of rain during the first two weeks of July. Nearby rivers and streams flooded. Fortunately, it did not rain at the Fairgrounds during most days of the event. On the contrary, most days it was very sunny and HOT. But, when it did rain, a few areas of the venue had rising water. Although yours truly was parked on pavement which was "high and dry", the owners of coaches immediately behind ours in that same paved area were witnessed walking around in shin-deep water before they were eventually moved to sites on higher ground.

On a sunny afternoon, on the high and dry grounds of the not-so-oval office we had a social attended by thirty-seven (37) people. We were again happy to have Andy Baers, of Tiffin Motorhomes, visiting with us during our social. Also able to join us were our members Kelly and Sally Moore, co-presidents of the Tiffin Allegro Club who took time out from manning the display of beautiful Tiffin coaches. During the social, FMCA Northeastern Area President, Tom Ziobrowski and wife Connie, became members of our chapter. Thank you to Charlie and Jean Schrenkel for introducing Tom and Connie to our chapter.

Before I leave the topic of Indianapolis, it was an election year for FMCA National officers. Congratulations are extended to chapter member John Reynolds for his election to the office of FMCA National Treasurer. Congratulations are extended also to chapter honorary member Gaye Young for her re-election to the office of FMCA National Secretary. Well done to both of our representatives at the national level.

#### **Annual Audit of Chapter Finances**

As is required of FMCA and stated in our chapter bylaws, an annual audit of our financial records was performed July 17<sup>th</sup> by chapter VP, Tom Gulya. Made available to him were all bank statements, checkbook records, receipts for income and expenses, rally records and Treasurer's Reports covering the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The prior audit had covered similar records through June 30, 2016.

#### **FMCA Music Camp 2017 (A repeat of the March 2017 article)**

Do you have an itch to dust off the instrument in the closet? Been dying to exercise the vocals? Want to be around others with interests in making music....maybe to test the waters and give in to the temptation to jump in...just a little? Here is your chance.

Our chapter member, Bruce Taylor, is president of the FMCA Frustrated Maestros Eastern Sharps and Flats. He invites you to join the fun for a pre-GEAR rally and 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Music Camp at the State Fairgrounds of West Virginia. Early arrival is September 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. Normal arrival is September 25<sup>th</sup>. Camp is scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup>. September 30<sup>th</sup> is a free day. Departure is October 1<sup>st</sup> unless registrants are staying on for GEAR. Six (6) nights of camping with 30amp full hook-up is \$185. Early arrival on the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> is \$25 additional per night.

Mail your check for the appropriate amount, payable to Eastern Sharps & Flats, to:  
Sandy Martin, Treasurer  
81 Madbury Road  
Durham, NH 03824

Include with your check the following information: Pilot and co-pilot name; designation of instrument or voice for each; address; phone number; email address; FMCA number.

#### **FMCA Eastern Area Information**

Although our chapter was formed/chartered in the Eastern Area of FMCA, we operate under the premise that we are not bounded by geography. Our membership is spread throughout North America (which includes members in Canada). We will gather and rally wherever and whenever our members care to convene. That being said, we should know a bit more about the Eastern Area of FMCA.

Bill Mallory is the Eastern Area president, email address [bmallory@fmca.com](mailto:bmallory@fmca.com). The Eastern Area web site is: [easternarea.net](http://easternarea.net). The Eastern Area encompasses D.C. and nine (9) states: Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and Kentucky. The Eastern Area annual rally, a/k/a GEAR, is usually held in late September or early October. This year's October GEAR is covered in the above article and more information can be found at [easternarea.net](http://easternarea.net). GEAR 2018 will be in York, PA on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Future Events**

- October 3 is the first night of parking at the FMCA Eastern Area Rally (aka GEAR) at the State Fairgrounds of West Virginia in Lewisburg, WV. Information is above and our web site. Also, please contact Marge Mazzone to help her volunteer efforts.
- October 11 is the first official night of our chapter's rally at Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort in South Carolina. There are opportunities to arrive early and/or stay late. Information is above and on our web site. Deadline to reserve is October 1, 2017.
- February 7, 2018 is the first official night of the FMCA Southeastern Area Rally (SEA) in Lakeland, FL. Information will be available at [fmca.com](http://fmca.com). There are not yet any activities planned for our chapter, but usually dozens of our member coaches are in attendance at SEA.
- March 15, 2018 is the first official night of the FMCA 97<sup>th</sup> International Convention to be held in Perry, GA. Information will be available at [fmca.com](http://fmca.com). There are not yet any activities planned for our chapter, but usually dozens of our member coaches are in attendance at Perry.
- April 2018 – Stay tuned to our web site for updates about a chapter rally at Florida Grande Resort in Webster, Florida.
- September 2018 – Stay tuned to our web site for updates about a chapter rally at Hearthside Motorcoach Resort in Petoskey, Michigan.
- October 2018 – Stay tuned to our web site for updates about a possible chapter rally in Virginia or thereabouts.

### **Closing Remarks**

Hopefully enough has been written in this newsletter about enough stuff. I strive to avoid the possibility of not informing the membership.

Thank you to all who participate (and I mean PARTICIPATE) in the continued success of our chapter. There are many chapters in FMCA under the looming possibility of losing their charter due to not having the requisite number of members on their roster. We should not have a short roster problem as long as Tiffin keeps rolling those pretty coaches off the assembly line. (Fingers crossed for good fortune!)

Because our membership is so spread out geographically, it is not important for us to have "large" attendance at our rallies. There is no requirement for members to attend rallies, but we'd love to see folks periodically. What is important is that we offer a sufficient variety and frequency of rallies for our members to exercise their option to attend. And, membership in our chapter has privileges (monetary benefits) at our rallies. Attend at least one rally a year and you can pretty much recoup your annual dues.

As always, remember to periodically visit our [tiffintravelers.info](http://tiffintravelers.info) web site for possible updates regarding upcoming "Rallies and Gatherings". In red font at the top of each event page is a notation of the date the page was last updated. For those less motivated to surf the site's pages, we are updating the lower center of the Home page with the same "last updated" information for each subpage of the web site.

I type. You read. PLEASE.

If you have questions about events on the calendar, please contact the point person for that particular event as indicated on the web site. If no point person is listed, you can email [tiffintravelers@gmail.com](mailto:tiffintravelers@gmail.com) for assistance.

Stay safe and well. We'll email a rally reminder in September and we'll see you in October.

See you down the road!  
Frances Fonner, President  
Tiffin Travelers